

YELLOWSTONE'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JULY 20, 2010

RECYCLING IN YELLOWSTONE

Great work, Yellowstone! In 2009, Yellowstone staff and visitors diverted 80% of Yellowstone garbage from ending up in a landfill. Most of this diversion came from recycling and composting—two ways to reuse waste we generate.

Yellowstone recyclables and compost get used in unique ways. For example, glass, crushed at the Livingston Recycling Center, has been used for permeable paving in parking lots and footpaths in cities near Yellowstone. This allows water to flow through the pavement and soak into the ground below, which decreases run-off. Yellowstone glass has been mixed into counter tops in the Mammoth Restroom and also turned into colorful tiles for interior decorating.

Most of Yellowstone's garbage goes to the West Yellowstone Compost Facility. Park staff analyzed the garbage and determined that 40% of the waste was food-based. Most of that

2009 Commodities Collected <small>(NPS and Concessioners)</small>	Amount Collected in Tons
Cardboard	269.5
Tires	250.0
Glass	117.8
Paper	86.4
Plastics	41.2
Aluminum/ Steel	14.1
Electronics	13.2
Total:	792.2

food waste can be turned into compost that breaks down and becomes a nutrient-rich soil additive. The final product will be used to help restore the Gibbon River Corridor after road construction is completed. While used for Park landscaping projects, you can also purchase some from the facility for your own gardening and landscaping projects!

Recycling in Yellowstone has gotten even more exciting with the expansion of acceptable plastics. Yellowstone now accepts plastics 1-7! That includes Styrofoam (#6), plastic sacks and wrappers, and soft and hard plastics.

Besides recycling glass, plastics, paper, and aluminum and steel, Yellowstone (cont. on pg. 3)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- In 2009, Yellowstone's NPS and Concession staff diverted 80% of their waste from ending up in a landfill.
- Working with MSU and the US Forest Service inspired [development of a bear spray recycling unit](#).
- Yellowstone National Park was the first park to develop and instigate propane cylinder recycling.
- Year round, the West Yellowstone Compost Facility turns people's table scraps and food waste into compost, a rich soil additive. Compost, mixed with soil, will help revitalize the Gibbon River Corridor after road construction is completed.

RECYCLING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

After publishing the recycling guide (pg. 5), the Environmental Management Team (EMT) received lots of questions to clarify recycling. Jim Evanoff, Environmental Management Specialist, answers a few frequently asked questions:

Q. Do we still need to separate compostable from non-compostable trash? We are still separating, but I have heard from a few people that we don't need to. If we don't, is the park still composting trash? If it isn't separated, how is it done?

A. Now that we are using clear plastic garbage bags, it really does help to separate compostable from non-compostable waste. That way, the workers at the compost facility can check the bag for organic waste and send it directly to be composted without having to dump out and separate (cont. on pg 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

RECYCLING IN YELLOWSTONE 1

RECYCLING Q&A 1

BEAR SPRAY AND PROPANE RECYCLING 2

RETHINK, RECYCLE OPINION PIECE 3

CONTACT 4

RECYCLING GUIDE 5



Recycling and composting are ways to insure your garbage turns into something useful like new soil, fleece jackets, and crushed glass used to pave surfaces. What are ways you can recycle or reuse goods at home?

Image from:
www.greatergoods.com

YELLOWSTONE
RECYCLES
PLASTICS #1-7.
THAT INCLUDES
STYROFOAM!

NEW RECYCLING
CONTRACT
COMING OUT
OCTOBER, 2010.
STAY TUNED!

RECYCLING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (CONT. FROM PG 1).

compostable from non-compostable items.

Every piece of garbage generated in Yellowstone is transported to the compost facility-year round. That is why recycling, composting, reducing or eliminating on the "front end" is so important so compostable and recyclable items don't end up in the landfill.

Q: What is compostable waste and what is non-compostable?

A: Compostable waste is normally organic waste and easily breaks down when exposed to the elements. Food is generally compostable. It is best to compost vegetables, fruits, coffee grounds and filters, egg shells, tea bags, etc. Paper products (e.g., used paper plates, cups) are also compostable.

For Yellowstone, place organic waste in one clear plastic bag, so the West Yellowstone Compost Facility can turn waste into nutrient rich compost!

Q: Why don't the concessioners offer the full spectrum

of recycling that the NPS has? During recent employee orientations at Old Faithful, I noticed public areas typically only have plastic, aluminum, and trash bins, and non-public areas sometimes don't even have that.

A: Inconsistencies with recycling is an issue among different partners. We realize that visitors and employees are getting mixed messages about what can be recycled. A new recycling contract, beginning Oct. 1st, is in process and addresses the issues you bring up. We will be instituting consistency, standardized signage, etc., among all concessioners and the NPS.

Q: Can we really recycle plastics #1-7? Does that include Styrofoam?

A: Yes! We are excited to announce that Yellowstone recycles plastics #1-7, including Styrofoam. Place all plastics in the plastic recycling bins. Continue

to separate out plastic bags and wrappers and place in a separate bin. For more details, refer to the new Recycling Guide (pg. 5).

Q: Where should I put waxed paper, paperboard, regular paper, cardboard, etc.?

A: Place corrugated cardboard and paperboard (e.g., cereal boxes) in the cardboard recycling container. You can recycle all papers. That includes envelopes with windows, waxed paper, magazines, newspapers, regular paper, etc. These all go in the paper recycling container.

Q: How can we learn more about Yellowstone recycling?

A: Contact us! You can also check out our website: www.yell.nps.gov/yep.

Thanks for your great work recycling and composting. Your efforts have diverted 80% of Yellowstone's garbage from ending up in a landfill. Good work, YNP employees!

BEAR SPRAY AND PROPANE RECYCLING

Do you ever wonder what happens to hazardous and flammable trash like propane and bear spray canisters? It ends up in the landfill – or, rather, it used to! Yellowstone employees and partners pioneered recycling units for propane cylinders and bear spray canisters. The propane cylinder recycling unit keeps 15,000 flammable cylinders

out of the landfill annually.

About 3.3 million people visited Yellowstone in 2009, many equipped with bear spray. Previously, there was no way to recycle canisters and they ended up in Yellowstone's waste-stream. Now, through non-profit, government, and private partnerships, Yellowstone is launching an (cont. on pg. 3)

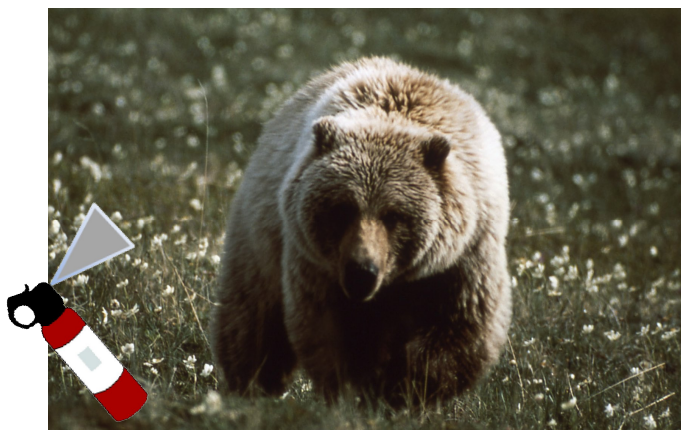
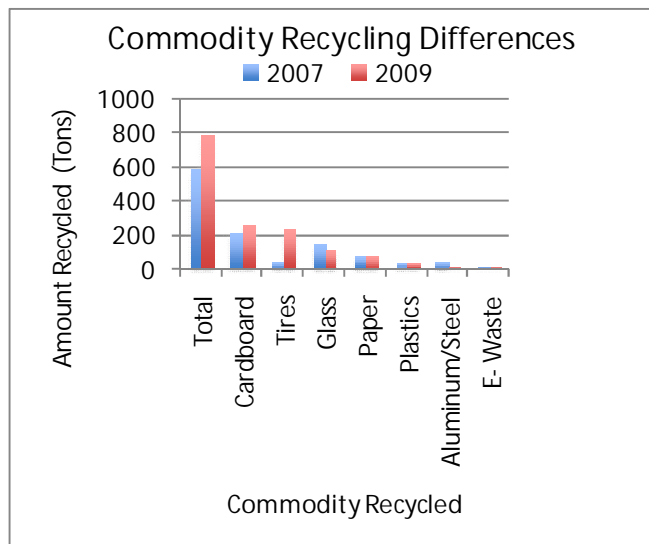


Bear Spray recycling coming to Yellowstone! Recycle canisters at the Mammoth Bone Yard.

RECYCLING IN YELLOWSTONE (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

also recycles oddball materials like electronic waste, batteries, ink cartridges, and propane and bear spray canisters. This recycling has been successful! In 2009, park staff recycled 13.2 tons of electronic waste, 42% more than last year. Recycling electronic waste keeps plastics and hazardous materials out of the landfill. Recycling can also save money. Refilling ink toners and cartridges saved the NPS \$12,000 last year. Just a little effort on our part helps save money and reduces the amount of waste we throw in landfills.

With the help of all employees and partners, we can further reduce the amount of garbage that ends up in landfills and foster alternative uses for recyclables generated in the park. Perhaps this year we can insure 85% of waste is diverted from the landfill. It takes all of us to achieve this goal, so head out and recycle!



BEAR SPRAY (CONT. FROM PG. 2)

environmentally-friendly solution for disposing of bear spray canisters. The recycling unit will extract the canister's contents, puncture the container, and flatten the cylinder to resell as high-quality recycled aluminum. All aspects of the canister, including the plastic lid and pepper

extracts, will be recycled.

Recycle bear spray canisters at the Mammoth Bone Yard.

OPINION: IT'S OKAY, I RECYCLE

After reading the morning news, which rarely has a front-page article about our shameless lust for unneeded commodities, it makes a man feel warm and fuzzy inside to toss his paper into the correct recycling bin. It's a strong start to the day. It's also ironic that most of the time, as he is cursing the names of

BP executives, or pondering the wellbeing of our planet, he hops into his SUV for a 5-mile drive through the city.

It is this lack of self-reflection and responsibility that makes it so easy to point a finger. After recycling you no longer feel like a bystander watching the world around

you rot away, but rather are an active part of the solution. And you should be. Recycling not only keeps millions of tons of waste out of landfills, it also saves energy. Recycling aluminum, for example, saves 95% of the energy used to create the material from scratch. That's a huge help, but (cont. on pg 4)



Reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink!

Image courtesy of:
www.townofshermanct.org



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Bernie Adams, Lynn Chan, Jim Evanoff, Andy Fox,
Kevin Franken, Bob Fuhrmann, Lori Gruber, Tristan
Hall, Bianca Klein, Lloyd Krueger, Nancy Patterson

Consultants

Steve Iobst, Glenn Plumb, Lindsay Robb

Summer Interns

John Allison, Peter Bahrenburg, Matt Wren

Chief of Maintenance Office
PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
WY 82190

E-mail:
YELL_Environmental_Management_Team@nps.gov

FIND US ONLINE!

WWW.YELL.NPS.GOV/YEP

Greenstone Prepared by:

Nancy Patterson and Peter Bahrenburg

National Park Service Mission Statement

“...the [National Park] Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

- NPS Organic Act, 1916.

OPINION: IT'S OKAY, I RECYCLE (CONT. FROM PG. 3)

the inconvenient fact is that recycling isn't enough. The United States alone still produces 11 billion tons of waste a year and that number increases annually.

What's really needed is a paradigm shift. For too long American society has gorged itself on superfluous items, which seem to bury our conscience. We work hard, so we like to spoil ourselves with luxuries. It's easy to pick up a new appliance instead of fixing an old one. So we do. Sooner or later we won't be able to run from the heaping pile of waste we've generated. We

try not to think about it. We try to ship our waste elsewhere. We even try to skew evidence to our convenience. But the truth is, we need to reduce our waste by purchasing only the things we actually need, reuse items that are still good and only need a little repair, and rethink the way we live our lives, even if it may inconvenience us a little.

So next time you're standing in the aisle of a store trying to convince yourself you need whatever it is you're reaching for, stop. Hasty decisions often leave your house cluttered with

unused trinkets and little lighter wallet. Overconsumption can be detrimental, even if the products are deemed "green." An earth-friendly product still requires energy to produce, resources to create it, and transportation to get it on the shelf. Think more about your own actions and how they affect the ecosystem we live in. Reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink.

- Peter Bahrenburg,
NPS Summer Intern



Rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle!

Image courtesy of:
www.motherearthnews.com



Yellowstone Recycles



ALL PAPER

Office paper, colored paper, magazines, newspaper, envelopes, post-its, catalogs, stapled papers, etc.



METALS

Aluminum, steel, foil



**Coming Soon!
Pepper Spray
Recycling!**



CARDBOARD

Corrugated & grayboard (cereal box type). Please flatten.



GLASS

All colors.
Remove lids.
Rinse.



PLASTICS

#1-7
Most plastic is recyclable including styrofoam & all plastic wrap, bags, packaging, etc.



BATTERIES

All types.
Collection bins in Mammoth Supply Center & locations throughout Park.



E-Waste

Anything that can be plugged in or takes a battery. CDs, DVDs, video tapes.
Recycle in same building as Mammoth Carpenter Shop



CFLs & Tubes

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs) & Fluorescent tubes.
Recycle at the Mammoth Supply Center.

Yellowstone also recycles propane camping bottles. Drop off at campgrounds.

Help Yellowstone divert more than 80% of its solid waste from the landfill!

Most garbage in Yellowstone goes to the West Yellowstone Compost Facility.

Thanks for your commitment to this program. It takes all of us to make it work!